



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2004

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**CALIFORNIANS CELEBRATE
CESAR CHAVEZ DAY OF SERVICE AND LEARNING**

Communities Serve in Honor of Cesar E. Chavez

The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) announces California's statewide service projects in celebration of the fourth annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning on March 31, 2004. Hundreds of thousands of students have participated in service learning activities on this day to honor the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez.

GO SERV is California's service commission, charged with administering the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning as well as AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps programs thereby connecting California communities through service. This year, 45 programs funded by GO SERV will participate in service projects to commemorate Cesar E. Chavez.

The following service projects and events honoring Cesar E. Chavez are taking place statewide over the holiday week:

BAKERSFIELD

Greenfield "Pay It Forward" Project

Saturday, March 27, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At Rexland Park in Greenfield, Pay It Forward will showcase students' work in a gallery walk. The student work focuses on the life, work and values of Cesar E. Chavez. Over 1,000 participants are expected at the event. Contact: CynDee Zandes, 661/837-6000.

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FRESNO

Fresno County Economic Opportunity Commission/Local Conservation Corps

Friday, April 2, 2004

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission /Local Conservation Corps (LCC), the School of Unlimited Learning (SOUL), and Habitat for Humanity Fresno will host a community awareness event to celebrate the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning at Habitat Crossroads in Fresno LCC and SOUL students will beautify the low-income housing development, including the installation of landscaping and an irrigation system. A ceremony will culminate in the installation and dedication of a bronze plaque in memory of Cesar E. Chavez. The event will include entertainment, information booths, and a tour of the beautification projects completed by the students. Contact: Paul McLain-Lugowski, 559/264-1048.

GALT

Project NET: Neighborhoods, Education, Teamwork

Saturday, April 3, 2004

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Project NET will participate in an event at the Cosumnes River Preserve that includes habitat restoration work, exotic plant removal, trail maintenance, and Visitor Center landscaping. The public is encouraged to attend and should bring a sack lunch and work clothes. Interested individuals can link to www.cosumnes.org for details and driving directions. Contact: John Durand, 916/683-1703.

HAYWARD

La Familia Counseling Service

La Familia Counseling Service will host two service projects celebrating the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Contact: Contact name: Jason Toro, 510/785-8270.

Saturday, March 27, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The La Familia Neighborhood Resource Center will host a fundraiser called Hijos del Sol Rock & Rides Concert/Car Show Fundraiser. Hijos del Sol youth have planned a community celebration showcasing local talent, including dancers, rock groups, rappers, and singers, as well as a local car club. The event will raise funds to help the youth convert the empty field next to the Resource Center into a recreational field dedicated to Cesar E. Chavez.

Sunday, March 28, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The La Familia Neighborhood Resource Center will work with Hijos del Sol youth to create a recreation field dedicated to Cesar E. Chavez. Youth and community members will participate in converting the field into a functional space. The event organizers expect 100 participants.

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LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) will host a campus-wide beautification project at Gompers Middle School in South Los Angeles. Students, community residents, and the Clean and Green Junior Corps will work on a variety of projects at the school. The LACC will bring their traveling tide pool touch tank to the campus for the students. After the clean-up work is complete, there will be an all-school assembly to celebrate the project as well as the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez. Contact: Irene Lopez, 213/747-1141 ext. 201.

MILLVILLE

Millville Wildflower Project/Project Diversity

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Over 250 individuals are expected to visit Millville Elementary School on Cesar Chavez Day to attend the Diversity Art Show. Students have been participating in visual art instruction with a concentration on issues of diversity for the entire school year. The student art has focused on the life and values of Cesar E. Chavez. Families, local officials, business leaders, and community members are invited to attend this event. Contact: Mindy DeSantis, 530/547-4471.

RIVERSIDE

Riverside Youth Action Office

Saturday, April 3, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Riverside Youth Action Office in partnership with Alvord Unified School District Prime Time Afterschool Program will host a celebration in honor of Cesar Chavez at the Arlanza Community Garden. 250 attendees are expected; participants will receive tokens inscribed with Cesar Chavez's values each exhibitor's booth. Booths will include representatives from local organizations and businesses. During the event, staff will perform "Quinta Temporada," with high school students conducting garden tours. Classroom activities will be held during the week of March 31st. Contact: Teresa McAllister, 909/358-2709.

SACRAMENTO

Project NET: Neighborhoods, Education, Teamwork

Friday, April 2, 2004

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Project NET will host a salmon release at Goethe Park on the American River. Approximately 20 elementary classes from the Sacramento area will release fish they have raised at their schools. After the salmon release, attendees will participate in a beach clean-up along the river. There will be representatives from the Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento County Parks, the Department of Waterways and Sacramento Zoo. The California Fly Fishers Unlimited will give demonstrations at the event. Contact: John Durand, 916/683-1703.

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SAN DIEGO

Cesar E. Chavez Service Clubs

Saturday, March 27, 2004

8:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lake Cuyamaca was devastated by the recent firestorms in Southern California. The Chavez Club members will make bird and bat houses to install at Lake Cuyamaca and plant black walnut trees to replace those destroyed by the fires. Chavez Club members will prepare bird house templates for assembly at the Urban Corps of San Diego on Saturday. Over 100 attendees are expected at this event. Contact: Carlos LeGerrette, 619/233-1331.

SAN FRANCISCO

The Visual and Performing Arts Honor Cesar E. Chavez

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The School of Arts High School in San Francisco will host a school-wide assembly honoring Cesar E. Chavez. Students will read original poetry, perform innovative Latin jazz compositions, present a video, and dedicate a mural. The 600 students and faculty will all be in attendance for this event as well as families and community members. Contact: Juan Carlos, 415/279-5202.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

Cuesta College

Cuesta College will host three service projects for Cesar Chavez Day. Contact: Glenda Moscoso, 805/710-3479.

Friday, March 26, 2004

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sixth graders from Pacheco Elementary School in San Luis Obispo will unveil a school mural. This event will be a celebration of their work, and students will have the opportunity to share with their fellow classmates, teachers and parents what they learned as a result of their participation on this project. 200 participants are expected.

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Sixth graders from Oceano Elementary School in Oceano will unveil a school mural. Students will have the opportunity to share with their fellow classmates, teachers and parents what they learned as a result of their participation on this project. 200 participants are expected.

Friday, April 2, 2004

9:00a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), a counseling and student support program, will bring approximately 100 kindergartners from South County to KinderCaminata at Cuesta College in Arroyo Grande. KinderCaminata is a program in which kindergarten students visit a campus to instill at a young age the expectation of achieving a college education. In addition, there will be a dedication ceremony of the Cesar Chavez mural created at the Bridge Street Learning Center. More than 150 participants are expected for this celebration.

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SAN RAFAEL

Cesar Chavez Marin Collaborative

Saturday, March 27, 2004

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Cesar Chavez Marin Collaborative will participate in the Environmental Education Council of Marin's 3rd Annual Healthy Food for Growing Kids event. The event will take place at the Pickleweed Community Center in San Rafael and include speakers from the Edible Schoolyard in Berkeley, healthy food for attendees, and hands-on activities for youth. The Marin Corps members will lead children in educational service activities honoring Cesar E. Chavez. Over 100 youth are expected to attend this event. Contact: Jason Rainey, 415/884-2400.

SANTA ROSA

Sonoma SERVES

Saturday, March 27, 2004

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Fourth Annual Cesar Chavez Celebracion de Salud, held at Roseland Elementary School in Santa Rosa, will focus on the health needs of children and families in the Latino community. Iron-deficiency anemia, dental care, and nutrition are three of the most pressing needs that will be addressed at the fair through health screenings and services, information booths, and opportunities for affordable children's health insurance. The health fair will also include performances and activities led by school children, local entertainment, healthy food, a children's bike rodeo, raffles, and music. Approximately 1,000 people are expected to attend, gather information, and obtain health screenings. Contact: Deb Harris, 707/664-2956.

VISALIA

Proteus, Inc.

Saturday, April 3, 2004

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Proteus, Inc. will host a one-day community celebration to honor Cesar E. Chavez at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center in Visalia. The event will include over 300 youth and their families who will install benches and plant trees and bushes in the quad. A representative of the Urban Tree Foundation will supervise and direct the beautification project. Speeches will be presented by local leaders about Cesar E. Chavez's life and work. After the project is complete, there will be a barbeque for the youth participants and a local dance troupe performance. Contact: Mae Lee, 559/733-5423.

For more information about GO SERV, visit www.goserv.ca.gov or telephone GO SERV at (916) 323-7646.

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